

# Singapore Memories

By Margaret White

Living in Singapore and travelling extensively throughout Asia has nuanced my art-making. It has also fuelled both my knowledge and my passion for collecting all things Asian and subsequently, the choice of subject matter in my work. I enjoy sketching, watercolour painting and more recently, printmaking.



*Rambutans in Blue and White, watercolour*

*The exuberance of tropical fruit and flowers has always been a favourite theme. I was fortunate to live in a colonial black-and-white house in well-established, lush, verdant grounds which provided much inspiration. Creating a still life with my collectables is a joy. In this painting I explored the subject by contrasting warm and cool colours.*

*Buddha Torso, Uttar Pradesh India, mottled red sandstone, on gris ciel paper*

*Since returning to Australia, I have been constantly drifting into the Asian galleries of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, my former guiding home. I executed this quick sketch on a Sunday afternoon. The gracefully carved Buddha was drawn on rough textured paper to capture sandstone. As I drew, my mind went winging back to the sculptures in the quiet South Asian gallery of the Asian Civilisations Museum while also reminding me of my numerous trips to India and China with FOM's Study Tours. We visited sacred sites and followed the path of Buddhism as it moved eastwards, while sharing experiences and camaraderie aplenty.*



*Lichens, lithograph on handmade paper*

*In Singapore, I was excited about participating in various printmaking classes. In the lithography workshop at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute, I felt privileged to work on a large limestone block previously used by many famous artists. If only it could speak, I wondered! The characteristics of limestone allow for great detail and delicacy in mark-making. The resulting print reflects my love of observing the minutiae of nature.*




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**Margaret White** lived in Singapore from 1991-2011, was a former president of FOM and continues to be engaged with the society. She is a member of the Friends of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and is currently serving on the Board of the Asian Art Society of Australia (TAASA). She resides in Sydney, Australia.

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